

AMENDMENTS**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A method of predicting or determining immunoresistance to botulinum toxin therapy in an individual, the method comprising the step of determining detecting the presence or absence in said individual of antibodies immunoreactive with a at least a first BoNT/A peptide and a second BoNT/A peptide;[[,]]

wherein said first BoNT/A peptide said BoNT/A peptide consisting of consists essentially of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof or and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof, where said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and where said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

wherein said second and at least one additional BoNT/A peptide, said additional BoNT/A peptide consisting of consists essentially of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof, where said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and where said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at least six consecutive amino acids of 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and

wherein said antibodies immunoreact with amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at least six consecutive amino acids of 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and

wherein the presence of antibodies immunoreactive with at least said first BoNT/A peptide or said second one of said BoNT/A peptide[s] indicates immunoresistance to a botulinum toxin therapy.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of said amino acid sequences of said additional second BoNT/A peptide[s] consists essentially of an amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof;

wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 981-999 of

SEQ ID NO: 1, 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~each of said amino acid sequences of said additional second BoNT/A peptide[[s]] consists essentially of an amino acid sequence~~ is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof:

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at least six consecutive amino acids of 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~each of said amino acid sequences of said additional second BoNT/A peptide[[s]] consists essentially of an amino acid sequence~~ is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~one of said amino acid sequences of said additional second BoNT/A peptide[[s]] consists essentially of an amino acid sequence~~ is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof or an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof:

wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1[[.]]; and

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~one of said amino acid sequences of said additional second BoNT/A peptide[[s]] consists essentially of an amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of~~ amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof or an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant of amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1[.]; and

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~one of said amino acid sequences of said additional second BoNT/A peptide[[s]] consists essentially of an amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of~~ amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof or an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant of amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~one of said amino acid sequences of said additional second BoNT/A peptide[[s]] consists essentially of an amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of~~ amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof or an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant of amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~two of said amino acid sequences of said additional first BoNT/A peptides are~~ ~~consists essentially of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of~~ amino acids ~~785-803-981-999~~ of SEQ ID NO: 1, ~~amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or~~ a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof or an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids ~~785-803-981-999~~ of SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~or 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1051-1069;~~ and

~~wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or at least six consecutive amino acids of 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1.~~

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~two of said amino acid sequences of said additional BoNT/A peptides are~~ ~~consists essentially of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of~~ amino acids ~~785-803-981-999~~ of SEQ ID NO: 1, ~~amino~~

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~~acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof or an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;~~

~~wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1121-1139; and~~

~~wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 785-803-981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or at least six consecutive amino acids of 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1.~~

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein two of ~~said amino acid sequences of said additional BoNT/A peptides~~ are consists essentially of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 785-803-981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, ~~amino acids 1275-1296, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof or an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;~~

~~wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1275-1296; and~~

~~wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or at least six consecutive amino acids of 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1.~~

12. (Currently amended) A method of predicting or determining immunoresistance to botulinum toxin therapy in an individual, the method comprising the step of determining detecting the presence or absence in said individual of antibodies immunoreactive with at least a BoNT/A peptide, ~~said BoNT/A peptide~~ consisting of consists essentially of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof or and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

~~wherein said antibodies immunoreact with amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;~~

wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant of amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and

wherein the presence of antibodies immunoreactive with said BoNT/A peptide indicates immunoresistance to a botulinum toxin therapy.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein ~~said amino acid sequence of said BoNT/A peptide is~~ consists essentially of amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, comprising selectively determining the presence or absence in said individual of IgG antibodies immunoreactive with each of said immunoreactive first or second BoNT/A peptide[[s]].
15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 or 12, wherein the presence or absence of antibodies immunoreactive with each of said immunoreactive first or second BoNT/A peptide[[s]] is determined using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.
16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 or 12, wherein the presence or absence of antibodies immunoreactive with each of said immunoreactive first or second BoNT/A peptide[[s]] is determined using a radioimmunoassay.
17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 or 12, wherein said botulinum toxin therapy is BoNT/A therapy.

18-30 (Cancelled).

31. (Currently amended) A method of producing antibodies that neutralize BoNT/A in an individual, the method comprising the step of administering to said individual an immune response inducing composition comprising:

- a) an adjuvant;
- b) a BoNT/A peptide having a length of at most 60 amino acids and comprising amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof stimulate an immune response capable of producing a neutralizing anti-BoNT/A antibody; and

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment ~~producing~~ stimulating an immune response comprises at least ~~eight~~ six consecutive amino acids of 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and

- c) at least one additional BoNT/A peptide, said additional BoNT/A peptide having a length of at most 60 amino acids and comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof stimulate an immune response capable of producing a neutralizing anti-BoNT/A antibody; and

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment ~~producing~~ stimulating an immune response comprises at least ~~eight~~ six consecutive amino acids of

981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least eight six consecutive amino acids of 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least eight six consecutive amino acids of 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or at least eight six consecutive amino acids of 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said additional BoNT/A peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein ~~one~~ of said additional BoNT/A peptides ~~comprises the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of~~ includes said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~and~~ or an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO:1 ~~producing stimulating~~ an immune response comprises at least eight six consecutive amino acids of 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein ~~one~~ of said additional BoNT/A peptides ~~comprises the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of~~ includes said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~and~~ or an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO:1 ~~producing stimulating~~ an immune response comprises at least eight six consecutive amino acids of 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein ~~one~~ of said additional BoNT/A peptides ~~comprises the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of~~ includes said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~and~~ or an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO:1 ~~producing stimulating~~ an immune response comprises at least ~~eight~~ ~~six~~ consecutive amino acids of 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein ~~two of~~ said additional BoNT/A peptides ~~comprise the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of~~ includes said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1[[],] and said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein ~~two of~~ said additional BoNT/A peptides ~~comprise the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of~~ includes said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1[[],] and said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein ~~two of~~ said additional BoNT/A peptides ~~comprise the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of~~ includes said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1[[],] and said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein ~~two of~~ said additional BoNT/A peptides ~~comprise the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of~~ includes said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1[[],] and said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein ~~three of~~ said additional BoNT/A peptides ~~comprise the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of~~ includes said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein ~~three of~~ said additional BoNT/A peptides ~~comprise the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of~~ includes said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, said

additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and said
additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein ~~three~~ of said additional BoNT/A peptides ~~comprise the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of~~ includes additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein ~~four~~ of said additional BoNT/A peptides ~~comprise the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of~~ includes additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and said additional BoNT/A peptide comprising amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

44-47. (Cancelled).

48. (Previously presented) A method of predicting or determining immunoresistance to botulinum toxin therapy in an individual, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining the level of IgG antibodies immunoreactive with at least one BoNT/A peptide, said BoNT/A peptide having a length of at most 60 amino acids and comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said IgG antibodies immunoreact with amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a

conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof or an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant immunoreactive with said IgG antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment immunoreactive with said IgG antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or at least six consecutive amino acids of 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and

(b) comparing said level of IgG antibodies to a control level of IgG antibodies;

wherein an increase in said level of IgG antibodies in said individual as compared to said control level indicates immunoresistance to said botulinum toxin therapy.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein said increase is at least a 5-fold increase.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein said increase is at least a 10-fold increase.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein said control level of IgG antibodies is determined in an individual who has not been treated with botulinum toxin therapy.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein said control level of IgG antibodies is determined in an individual who is responsive to said botulinum toxin therapy.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein said botulinum toxin therapy is a BoNT/A therapy.

54. (Currently amended) A method of predicting or determining immunoresistance to botulinum toxin therapy in an individual, the method comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a BoNT/A peptide of SEQ ID NO: 1 having a length of at most 60 amino acids with a test specimen from said individual, said BoNT/A peptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant of amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and

b) determining detecting the presence or absence of antibodies immunoreactive with said BoNT/A peptide;

wherein said antibodies immunoreact with said amino acid sequence from said BoNT/A peptide, said amino acid sequence comprising amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof or an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof; and

wherein the presence of antibodies immunoreactive with said BoNT/A peptide indicates immunoresistance to a botulinum toxin therapy.

55. (Currently amended) The method of claim 54, further comprising at least one additional BoNT/A peptide of SEQ ID NO: 1 in step (a), said additional BoNT/A peptides having a length of at most 60 amino acids and comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or at least six consecutive amino acids of 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and

wherein said antibodies of step (b) immunoreact with said amino acid sequence of said additional BoNT/A peptides, said amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof or an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof; and

wherein the presence of antibodies immunoreactive with at least one of said additional BoNT/A peptides indicates immunoresistance to a botulinum toxin therapy.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein said BoNT/A peptide has a length of at most 40 amino acids.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein said additional BoNT/A peptides have a length of at most 40 amino acids.

58. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55, wherein said additional BoNT/A peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1[.]; and

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

59. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55, wherein said additional BoNT/A peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant of amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1[.] and

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

60. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55, wherein said additional BoNT/A peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant of amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1~~[. . .]~~; and

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

61. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55, wherein said additional BoNT/A peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant of amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1~~[. . .]~~; and

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO:1 immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

62. (Canceled)

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 or 55, comprising selectively determining the presence or absence of IgG antibody component from said antibodies immunoreactive with said amino acid sequences.

64-66. (Canceled)

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the presence or absence of antibodies immunoreactive with two or more of said additional amino acid sequences is determined.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the presence or absence of antibodies immunoreactive with three or more of said additional amino acid sequences is determined.

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the presence or absence of antibodies immunoreactive with four of said additional amino acid sequences is determined.

70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein said BoNT/A peptide is immobilized on a solid support.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein said additional BoNT/A peptides are immobilized on a solid support.

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 or 55, wherein the presence or absence of said immunoreactive antibodies is determined using a radioimmunoassay or an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 or 55, wherein said botulinum toxin therapy is a BoNT/A therapy.

74-113. (Canceled)

114. (Currently amended) An immune response inducing composition, comprising an adjuvant and a BoNT/A peptide of SEQ ID NO: 1, said BoNT/A peptide having a length of at most 60 amino acids and comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 785-794 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said amino acids 785-794 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof stimulate an immune response capable of producing a neutralizing anti-BoNT/A antibody; and

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 785-794 of SEQ ID NO:1 ~~producing stimulating~~ an immune response comprises at least ~~eight~~ ~~six~~ consecutive amino acids of 785-794 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

115. (Currently amended) The immune response inducing composition of claim 114, further comprising an additional BoNT/A peptide of SEQ ID NO: 1, said additional BoNT/A peptide having a length of at most 60 amino acids and comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof stimulate an immune response capable of producing a neutralizing anti-BoNT/A antibody; and

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment ~~producing stimulating~~ an immune response comprises at least ~~eight~~ ~~six~~ consecutive amino acids of 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least ~~eight~~ ~~six~~ consecutive amino acids of 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least ~~eight~~ ~~six~~ consecutive amino acids of 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least ~~eight~~ ~~six~~ consecutive amino acids of 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or at least ~~eight~~ ~~six~~ consecutive amino acids of 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

116. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 114, wherein said BoNT/A peptide has a length of at most 40 amino acids.

117. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 115, wherein said additional BoNT/A peptides have a length of at most 40 amino acids.

118. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 115, wherein said additional BoNT/A peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO:1 producing stimulating an immune response comprises at least ~~eight~~
six consecutive amino acids of 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

119. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 115, wherein said additional BoNT/A peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO:1 producing stimulating an immune response comprises at least ~~eight~~
six consecutive amino acids of 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

120. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 115, wherein said additional BoNT/A peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO:1 producing stimulating an immune response comprises at least ~~eight~~
six consecutive amino acids of 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

121. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 115, wherein said additional BoNT/A peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO:1 producing stimulating an immune response comprises at least eight six consecutive amino acids of 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

122. (Canceled)

123. (Currently amended) A method of preparing an anti-BoNT/A antibody, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) administering to an animal a composition comprising an adjuvant and a BoNT/A peptide of SEQ ID NO: 1 having a length of at most 30 amino acids;

wherein said BoNT/A peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 491-509 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 519-537 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 533-551 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 547-565 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 589-607 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 631-649 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 659-677 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 673-691 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 715-733 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 743-761 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 771-789 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 813-831 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 827-845 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and an immunogenic BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein an immunogenic response is produced by amino acids 491-509 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 519-537 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 533-551 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 547-565 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 589-607 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 631-649 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 659-677 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 673-691 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 715-733 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 743-761 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 771-789 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 813-831 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 827-845 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or an immunogenic BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof; and

wherein said immunogenic BoNT/A amino acid sequence producing stimulating an immunogenic response comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 491-509 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 519-537 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 533-551 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 547-565 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 589-607 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 631-649 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 659-677 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 673-691 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 715-733 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 743-761 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 771-789 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 813-831 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or at least six consecutive amino acids of 827-845 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

- (b) collecting from said animal a sample containing an antibody or antibody-producing cell; and
- (c) processing said sample to isolate said anti-BoNT/A antibody.

124. (Currently amended) The method of claim 123, wherein said BoNT/A peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 547-565 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 589-607 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 659-677 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 743-761 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and an immunogenic BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said immunogenic BoNT/A amino acid sequence producing stimulating an immunogenic response comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 547-565 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 589-607 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 659-677 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 743-761 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or at least six consecutive amino acids of 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

125. (Previously presented) The method of claim 123, wherein said BoNT/A peptide has a length of at most 25 amino acids.

126. (Previously presented) The method of claim 123, wherein said BoNT/A peptide has a length of at most 20 amino acids.

127. (Currently amended) The method of claim 123, wherein said BoNT/A peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 547-565 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a immunogenic BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof[.]:

wherein said immunogenic BoNT/A amino acid sequence producing stimulating an immunogenic response comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 547-565 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or at least six consecutive amino acids of 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

128. (Previously presented) The method of claim 123, wherein said BoNT/A peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 449-467 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 491-509 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 519-537 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 533-551 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 547-565 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 589-607 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 631-649 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 659-677 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 673-691 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 715-733 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 743-761 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 771-789 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 813-831 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and amino acids 827-845 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

129. (Previously presented) The method of claim 123, wherein said BoNT/A peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 547-565 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 589-607 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 659-677 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 743-761 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

130. (Previously presented) The method of claim 123, wherein said BoNT/A peptide consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 547-565 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

131. (Currently amended) The method of claim 123, wherein said BoNT/A peptide comprises amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or immunogenic BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said immunogenic BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment of amino acids 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1 producing stimulating an immunogenic response comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 785-803 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

132. (Original) The method of claim 123, wherein said antibody is polyclonal.

133. (Original) The method of claim 123, wherein said antibody is monoclonal.

134-135. (Cancelled)

136. (New) The method of claim 12, further comprising detecting the presence or absence in said individual of antibodies immunoreactive with at least one additional BoNT/A peptide of SEQ ID NO: 1, said additional BoNT/A peptide consisting essentially of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1, a conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant thereof and an immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment thereof;

wherein said conservative BoNT/A amino acid sequence variant immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or 1-4 conservative amino acid substitutions to amino acids 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

wherein said immunoreactive BoNT/A amino acid sequence fragment immunoreactive with said antibodies comprises at least six consecutive amino acids of 981-999 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive amino acids of 1051-1069 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least six consecutive

amino acids of 1121-1139 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or at least six consecutive amino acids of 1275-1296 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

wherein the presence of antibodies immunoreactive with at least one of said additional BoNT/A peptides indicates immunoresistance to a botulinum toxin therapy.